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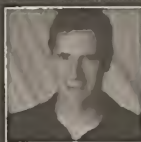
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Future / Sat, Jul 5 (8 pm)

The future is, as a human construct, both inescapable and impossible to actually reach: we can plan ahead all we want, but we experience our lives in the moment of occurrence, and then that which was is reduced to intangible memory—and meanwhile, the future is again somewhere in the distance, just beyond our reach. Time passes without concern for our wants and needs; we're just haplessly drawn along on its unwitting and eternal march, shackled to the pace of its choosing. I'm sure, given his name, Atlanta-rapper Future has more to say on the matter at his own ephemeral concert in Edmonton this week. He'll probably play "Covered N Money," too. (Encore – West Edmonton Mall, \$45)



Jay Witten album release / Sat, Jul 5 (8 pm)

Local folk troubadour Jay Witten has got a pretty sweet speaking thing going on in *The Wide Eyed*, his sophomore release: over jangling instrumentals and grooving rhythms, he makes wry, conversational music that debates the nature of space and time, imagines discussing power over war cake, and includes a two-minute folk song called "Minutelong Folk Song." It's a cozy, clever delight of an album, and it's officially seeing release this Saturday, with bonus sets from fellow folk impresario Tyler Butler and the N3K Trio, who imbues its jazz with a serious case of wanderlust. (The Artery, \$7)

Kongos / Tue, Jul 8 (6 pm)

When was the last time you heard accordion stabs anchor a hit single? Likely this week, if you tuned on the radio and "Come With Me Now" played, which it probably did. The current single from Phoenix-based-but-huge-in-South Africa alt-rockers Kongos is one of those ubiquitous smash songs that takes over the dial. Is there staying power to the rest of the band's material? This is the week you can go and find out. (Starlite Room, \$25)

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Alexis Normand / Thu, Jul 10

To be 'Fransaskoise' is to be both a Francophone and living in Saskatchewan. That's what Google tells me, and it's how jazz-folk performer Alexis Normand self-identifies in her press release. Performing bilingual sets across Western Canada and the Yukon this month—and hey, if you consider jazz another language, these shows are basically trilingual—Normand is doing her last tour behind her debut disc, *Mirador*, before heading back to Saskatoon to record its follow-up. (Accent Lounge)